


KEYS TO ACHIEVING HEALTH EQUITY IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

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- Who is the ‘Black Community’?
 - What are the major health issues facing African American people?
 - What are keys to equity for Black/African American populations?

“Black, African Am., or Negro”



Demographics

In **2011**, the population of **African Americans including those of more than one race** was estimated at **43.9 million**, making up **13.6%** of the total U.S. population.

Those who identified **only as African American** made up **12.8%** of the U.S. population-over **39 million** people.

The US Census Bureau projects that by the year **2060** there will be **77.4 million** African Americans in the United States, making up **18.4%** of the total U.S. population.

Challenges in Defining Community



- ❑ The connection between genes and race
- ❑ Increasing diversity
- ❑ Interpreting measures of community and race in meaningful ways

10 Leading Causes of Death for African Americans



Heart Disease

Cancer

Stroke

Diabetes

Unintentional Injuries

**Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome &
Nephrosis**

**Chronic Lower Respiratory
Diseases**

Homicide

Septicemia

Alzheimer's Disease

Source: CDC, NCHS, National Vital Statistics System (NVSS), Mortality Data <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/deaths.htm>
Deaths, Final Data for 2010

From: CDC. Presentation entitled “Increasing CDC’s Impact on Health Equity”. Office of Minority Health & Health Equity (OMHHE). [http://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/populations/REMP/black.html#Slides/April 1, 2013](http://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/populations/REMP/black.html#Slides/April%201,2013).

Health Disparities - Examples



African American women and men 45-74 years of age in 2006 had the largest death rates from heart disease and stroke compared with the same age women and men of other racial and ethnic populations.

From 2005-2008, people with the largest prevalence of hypertension were 65 years and older, African American adults, U.S.-born adults, adults with less than a college education, and those with public health insurance (64 years and younger), diabetes, obesity, or a disability compared with their counterparts.

From: CDC. Presentation entitled “Increasing CDC’s Impact on Health Equity”. Office of Minority Health & Health Equity (OMHHE).
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Health Disparities - Examples



Infants of African American women in 2006 had death rates twice as large as infants of White American women.

Adolescent and adult African Americans ages 15-59 years in 2007 had the largest death rates from homicide, as compared with other racial and ethnic populations of the same ages.

HIV infection rate among African Americans in 2008 was the largest rate compared with those of other racial and ethnic populations.

From: CDC. Presentation entitled “Increasing CDC’s Impact on Health Equity”. Office of Minority Health & Health Equity (OMHHE)./http://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/populations/REMP/black.html#Slides/April 1, 2013.

Health Disparities - Examples



Hispanic American and African American adults aged 18-64 years had substantially larger percentages of uninsured populations compared with Asian/Pacific Islander and White Americans.

In 2009, high school completion among African American adults was the second lowest (second to completion among Hispanic adults and similar to the completion among American Indian/Alaska Native adults).

In 2009, the percentage of African American adults living in poverty was among the largest compared with other racial/ethnic populations (similar to percentages among American Indians/Alaska Natives and Hispanic Americans).

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What is a “Health Disparity”?

Conceptual Issues



Inequality

Difference in Condition, Rank

**Lack of Equality, as of Opportunity,
Treatment, or Status**

Inequity

Unfair & Unjust

Unnecessary and Avoidable

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What is “Health Equity”?



Health Equity is attainment of the highest level of health for all people.

Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and healthcare disparities.

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Key: Understand Social Determinants



What are the social 'determinants' of health?


The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, including the health system. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels.

Examples of *social determinants* include:

- ❑ Availability of resources to meet daily needs (e.g., safe housing and local food markets)
- ❑ Access to educational, economic, and job opportunities
- ❑ Access to health care services
- ❑ Quality of education and job training
- ❑ Availability of community-based resources in support of community living and opportunities for recreational and leisure-time activities
- ❑ Transportation options

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Healthy People 2020. Washington, DC. Available at <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/overview.aspx?topicId=39>. Accessed April 1, 2013.

Examples of *social determinants* include:

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- ❑ Exposure to crime, violence, and social disorder (e.g., presence of trash and lack of cooperation in a community)
 - ❑ Socioeconomic conditions (e.g., concentrated poverty and the stressful conditions that accompany it)
 - ❑ Residential segregation
 - ❑ Language/Literacy
 - ❑ Access to mass media and emerging technologies (e.g., cell phones, the Internet, and social media)
 - ❑ Culture

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Key: Address the Role of Racism



- ❑ Overt Racism
- ❑ Structural Disadvantage
- ❑ Linked to increase in chronic stress
- ❑ Levels of Racism – Institutional, Interpersonal, and Internalized (C. Jones, AJPH, 2000).

Key: Use Culturally Competent Approaches



- Competent Public Health Workforce
- Development of a Ethical approaches to Public Health Practice
- Community-based Approaches
- Balance of Population-based and Risk-focused approaches

Thank You!



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